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## NEWS

### Budget

#### California Budget Plan Increases Funding

#### To Over \$7 Billion for Environment Programs

LOS ANGELES—California's environment-related programs and agencies would share over \$7 billion in general fund revenue, special fund money, and bond funds in fiscal year 2013-2014 under a budget proposal unveiled Jan. 10 by...

### Climate Change

#### Carbon Fee Bill From Sanders Could Raise

#### \$1 Trillion for Energy Investment, Aide Says

Climate legislation to be introduced by Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-Vt.) could raise \$1 trillion by putting a fee on greenhouse gas emissions and would use the proceeds to make a "historic investment" in energy efficiency and renewables,...

### Climate Change

#### EPA Rules, Energy Policies Needed to Meet

#### Climate Goal, Environmental Group Says

The United States is "within striking distance" of achieving President Obama's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 17 percent by 2020, but the administration needs to develop policies to ensure the target is met, an...

### Congress

#### Boxer Establishes Climate Change Counsel

#### Post for Senate Environment Committee

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) announced Jan. 10 that environmental attorney Joe Mendelson will be climate change counsel for the Environment and Public Works Committee, which will be charged with

drafting legislative solutions to curb...

#### Congress

##### Subcommittee Chairs Named for House

##### Science, Space, Technology Committee

New House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas) announced his selections for subcommittee chairs Jan. 8....

#### Drilling

##### Colorado Governor Urges Support

##### For Statewide Regulation of Oil, Gas Industry

DENVER—Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper (D) advised state lawmakers Jan. 10 to refrain from giving local governments more regulatory control over oil and gas activities. ...

#### Drilling

##### Colorado Oil and Gas Commission Approves

##### New Setback Rules for Drilling Operations

DENVER—The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has given preliminary approval to rules imposing new requirements for "setbacks," or the minimum distance between drilling operations and occupied buildings. ...

#### Drilling

##### Fracking Regulation a Top Issue for States in 2013

The National Conference of State Legislatures on Jan. 10 identified regulation of hydraulic fracturing as one of the top 10 issues facing states in 2013. The NCSL said technological advances such as hydraulic fracturing have revolutionized...

#### Drilling

##### New York Commissioners Decline to Testify

##### At Hearing on Proposed Fracking Regulations

ALBANY, N.Y.—The commissioners of New York state's environmental conservation and health departments took the unusual step Jan. 10 of declining to testify before an Assembly hearing on the state's proposed regulation of...

#### Drinking Water

##### Revised Total Coliform Rule

##### Offers Relief to Small Communities

The revised total coliform rule will help small drinking water systems through a new scheme that will not require public notifications to be sent to customers when total coliforms are detected, a utility representative told BNA Jan. 9....

#### Energy

##### DOE Announces \$120 Million Effort

##### To Address Shortage of Rare Earth Metals

The Department of Energy announced Jan. 9 it will award \$120 million over five years to address domestic shortages of rare earth metals and other materials used in making wind turbines, electric vehicles, advanced batteries, and other clean...

#### Energy

##### Google Investing \$200 Million in Texas Wind Farm

Google Inc. is investing approximately \$200 million in a Texas wind farm, the company announced Jan. 9. The equity investment in the 161-megawatt Spinning Spur Wind Project, located in the Texas Panhandle about 35 miles from Amarillo, brings...

#### Energy

##### Judge Denies Motion to Bring Complaint

##### Against EPA in Renewable Fuels Lawsuit

A federal district court judge Jan. 10 denied an energy broker's motion to file a third-party claim against the Environmental Protection Agency in litigation over fraudulent renewable fuel credits (Lansing Trade Group LLC v. OceanConnect...

#### Energy

##### Ontario to Close Coal-Fired Plants Ahead of Schedule

OTTAWA—The Ontario government will close two more coal-fired electricity generating plants by the end of 2013, a year ahead of schedule, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Jan. 10. Early closure of the Lambton and Nanticoke generating plants,...

## Energy

### Two Surveys Find Concerns About Potential

#### Health, Price Impacts of Natural Gas Exports

A majority of Americans opposes expanding the production of shale gas in order to export liquefied natural gas before conducting health research, according to a survey released Jan. 10 by two nonprofit organizations. ...

## Enforcement

### Mexico Needs Better Focus, More Resources

#### For Environmental Enforcement, OECD Says

PARIS—Mexico should target its understaffed environmental enforcement programs on the riskiest activities and should increase human and financial resources for enforcement efforts, the Organization for Economic Cooperation...

## Mining

### Court Approves Patriot Coal's Phaseout

#### Of Large-Scale Surface Mining in Appalachia

A federal court has approved Patriot Coal Corp.'s plan to phase out all of its large-scale surface mining in Appalachia by 2018 (Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition Inc. v. Patriot Coal Corp., S.D. W.Va., No. 3:11-cv-115, 1/9/13)....

## Mining

### West Virginia Regulators Should Better Study

#### Coal Slurry Breakthrough Risks, Report Says

West Virginia environmental regulators should not rely solely on underground mine maps to weigh the risk of a breakthrough for liquid coal waste that is impounded in dams, according to an oversight report released Jan. 10 by the Interior Department's...

## Regulatory Policy

### Chamber of Commerce President Predicts

#### More Suits to Block 'Flood' of Regulations

U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue said Jan. 10 that the association will be more active this year with lawsuits challenging regulations it opposes, including initiatives by the Environmental Protection Agency....

## Risk Assessment

### EPA Urged to Examine Many Arsenic Sources,

#### Seek Views of Highly Exposed Communities

The Environmental Protection Agency should consider the many different ways people can be exposed to arsenic as it prepares a new Integrated Risk Information System assessment of inorganic arsenic, and it should seek views from heavily exposed...

## Solid Waste

### Peer Review of Coal Ash Reuse Methodology

#### 'Very Positive,' Senior EPA Official Says

An independent peer review of an Environmental Protection Agency methodology to help users evaluate potential beneficial reuses of coal ash has been "generally very positive," a senior EPA official told BNA. ...

## Sustainability

### Organization Developing Sustainability

#### Accounting Standards Accredited by ANSI

An organization working to develop sustainability accounting standards says it has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute....

## Toxic Substances

### Mercury Concentrations Rising in Oceans;

#### Negotiators Prepare to Debate Binding Treaty

NAIROBI—Mercury concentrations in the top layer of the world's oceans have doubled in the past 100 years because of emissions from human activities, the U.N. Environment Program said in a report released Jan. 10 prior to the start...

## Trade

### Environmental Cooperation Said to Level

#### Playing Field Between U.S., Trading Partners

SANTIAGO—Closer cooperation on environmental matters between the United States and free trade agreement partners, such as Chile, should help to create more equitable regulatory conditions, with implications for businesses on...

## Transportation

### India Aims for \$4 Billion Investment by 2020

#### In Electric Vehicle Development, Promotion

CHANDIGARH, India—India's government would provide the equivalent of \$2 billion in investment for the development and promotion of electric vehicles in the country in the period ending 2020 under a plan announced Jan. 9 by Prime...

## Water Pollution

### Comment Period on Fracking Study Extended Again

The Environmental Protection Agency has extended the comment deadline on the external review of the draft research report, Investigation of Ground Water Contamination Near Pavillion, Wyoming, through Sept. 30, according to a notice being...

## Water Pollution

### EPA Offers to Help Iowa on Strategy

#### For Numeric Criteria to Reduce Nutrients

ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Environmental Protection Agency offered Jan. 10 to work with Iowa in establishing numeric criteria for nutrients to help it with its strategy to reduce the flow of nitrogen and phosphorus into its waters....

## Water Pollution

### N.C. Court Says State Has Authority

#### To Require Discharge Permit for Egg Farm

RALEIGH, N.C.—The North Carolina Division of Water Quality has the authority to require an egg farm to obtain a water quality permit to keep airborne ammonia from polluting nearby waters, a state court has ruled (Rose Acre Farms Inc....

## Water Resources

### Kansas Would Get Payment But No More

#### In Draft Settlement of Interstate Water Fight

A special master assigned by the U.S. Supreme Court to an interstate water dispute has proposed that Nebraska pay \$5 million to Kansas as restitution for overdrawing water under the Republican River Compact, but Kansas would not get its requested...

## Water Resources

### Report Outlines Opportunities to Improve

#### Information in Support of Water Managers

Three federal agencies issued a joint report Jan. 9 that outlines water resource managers' needs for better information to guide their short-term planning....

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